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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 42 Berkeley, California, February 1960 Number 2

DECEMBER TRIP TO MARIN LAKES

On December 6, a clear and cold day, a group of hardy Audubon members and friends birded at three of the lakes in Marin County. After meeting in the morning at the Ross fire house, we covered the near-by art and garden center and the creek and its lane. We then drove to the Phoenix Lake picnic area, from where we went on foot to Phoenix Lake and to Lake Lagunitas. The water level was so low in both that we saw mainly land birds. After lunch we proceeded to Bon Tempe Dam, where we were rewarded for our efforts by many water and shore birds.

The following 62 species were seen during the day: Pied-billed Grebe; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Canada Goose; Mallard; Pintail; American Widgeon; Ring-necked Duck; Canvasback; Lesser Scaup; Common Goldeneye; Ruddy Duck; Hooded and Common Merganser; Turkey Vulture; Red-tailed and Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; American Coot; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Greater Yellowlegs; Western and California Gull; Rock Dove; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn, Hairy, and Downy Woodpecker; Black Phoebe; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Common Crow; Chestnut-backed Chickadee; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; Brown Creeper; Wrentit; Bewick's and Rock Wren; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Bluebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cedar Waxwing; Audubon's and Townsend's Warbler; House Sparrow; Brewer's Blackbird; Purple Finch; Pine Siskin; Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's and Song Sparrow.

MYRA J. BROWNE, *Leader and Historian*

NOVEMBER TRIP TO ORINDA AND SAN PABLO RESERVOIRS

Almost 50 members and friends went on the Orinda, San Pablo Dam, and Bear Creek trip on Saturday, November 14. The Weather was clear and mild. And it turned out to be an unusually good day for birding, with 70 species seen, a very high list for this area. Highlights of the trip included a Spotted Sandpiper on Cascade Lake and a Starling among blackbirds on Bear Creek.

The following species were seen: Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Canada Goose; Mallard; Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Shoveler; American Widgeon; Ring-necked Duck; Canvasback; Common Goldeneye; Ruddy Duck; Hooded Merganser; Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, and Sparrow Hawk; California Quail; American Coot; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Glaucous-

winged, Herring, California, Ring-billed, and Mew Gull; Mourning Dove; Great Horned Owl; Anna's Hummingbird; Belted Kingfisher; Red-shafted Flicker; Acorn Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy Woodpecker; Black and Say's Phoebe; Steller's and Scrub Jay; Plain Titmouse; Common Bushtit; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Wrentit; Bewick's Wren; Mockingbird; Robin; Hermit Thrush; Western Buebird; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Water Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Loggerhead Shrike; Starling; Audubon's Warbler; House Sparrow; Western Meadowlark; Brewer's Blackbird; Brown-headed Cowbird; Purple and House Finch; American and Lesser Goldfinch; Rufous-sided and Brown Towhee; Lark Sparrow; Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox and Song Sparrow. PETER A. VEITCH, *Leader and Historian*

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S 55th ANNUAL CONVENTION

The first meeting opened at the New York Historical Society on Nov. 7, 1959, with Waldemar H. Fries presenting fifty color slides on selected Audubon Elephant Folio Prints. He reported that 235 of these folios have been traced and for those interested a set of the slides are available.

Dr. Olaus Murie, Director of the Wilderness Society, presented color slides and described the Arctic Wildlife Range in Alaska. He urged setting aside part of this beautiful range as a wildlife refuge. Following this presentation an Audubon Screen tour film "An Ozark Anthology" by Dr. Leonard Hall was shown. It was an exceptional film and skillfully photographed.

On Sunday, Nov. 8, 350 members put to sea in rather chilly weather on the excursion vessel Knickerbocker VII for an Audubon sponsored cruise up the Hudson River and to Jamaica Bay Sanctuary. Thirty-one species were observed, including the Laughing and Great Black-backed Gulls; Purple Sandpiper and Brant.

Another group, of delegates only, assembled for a roundtable discussion on methods of providing nature and conservation training to children through Audubon Junior Clubs, television, and other similar programs.

On Monday, Nov. 9, seven informative and interesting papers on conservation were presented. Robert P. Allen, Research Director of the Audubon Society, gave the latest news on the wading bird survey. Freeways and subdivisions are cutting into the nesting sites of cranes, egrets, ibises and spoonbills. John A. Livingston, Ex. Director, Audubon Society of Canada, discussed the problem of oil pollution in the sea. For over 30 years tankers have been dumping oil off the coast of Newfoundland. These slicks have been traced for hundreds of miles; birds are attracted to the quiet waters and become covered with oil. Death of the bird is usually due to exposure caused by feathers becoming glued to the body. The fifty-mile zone from the shore limit where dumping is permitted is not enough protection, as there are NO safe areas where oil can be dumped. He suggested an oil reclamation method be used.

The afternoon session included a paper by Walter W. Dykstra on "Nuisance Bird Control" followed by a presentation on "Wildlife in the Proposed National Shoreline Areas". John H. Baker presented a paper on "Establishment and Maintenance of Wildlife Sanctuaries". The evening program, at the American Museum of Natural History, was started with a paper by Dr. Ira

N. Gabrielson, President of the Wildlife Management Institute. He discussed the future of North American waterfowl and urged support for favorable legislation in acquiring land for nesting waterfowl. Over twelve million acres are needed. The program concluded with an outstanding screen tour film on Iceland, "Sea, Ice and Fire", by Dr. Olin S. Pettingill, Jr.

The convention closed on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Dr. David E. Price presented a unique paper entitled "Is Man Becoming Obsolete?" in which he dealt with the role of man in today's society and the problems of air and water pollution. This presentation was followed by a report on toxic chemicals by Harold S. Peters. The final paper was on the status of the Bald Eagle in Florida, given by Richard L. Cunningham, and gave all the members something to contemplate. The 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Bald Eagle as the National Emblem will be in 1982 and with the decrease in the number of birds the future of this species is in grave danger.

After the annual dinner Roger T. Peterson presented his new film "Wild Europe", thus closing a most noteworthy convention. I greatly appreciate having had the opportunity of being a delegate from the Golden Gate Audubon Society to this convention. The magnitude of the conservation program and its problems was presented in a manner which would inspire all participants to bigger and better efforts in this field. HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Delegate*

WELCOME TO THE NEW OFFICERS OF THE GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

A hearty welcome to the new members of the board, and a grateful thank you for those leaving. We are pleased to report that Roberta Long was re-elected as President. The society extends thanks to Roberta for her past record of excellent leadership. A vote of thanks also to Howard Cogswell for his many years' service on the board and his work with *The Gull*. We are happy to report that Gladys Smith, although leaving the Board, will remain chairman for the Junior Audubon Clubs.

FAME AND RECOGNITION! Now is your opportunity!

The first San Francisco International Nature Color Slide Exhibition will be presented by the Photochrome Club during March. For those who wish to submit an entry for consideration, the deadline date is February 29. A maximum of four color slides are allowed and may be on any nature subject from rocks to birds. The entry fee is $1.00 to cover the costs of the exhibition. Entry forms and information are available from Betty Randall, 1931 Grant Ave., San Francisco 11, California.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Berkeley, Mr. Robert W. Kaufmann; from Concord, Miss Dorothea Kirk; from Oakland, Miss Mary Margaret Smith; and fom San Francisco, Miss Marjory M. Reu, and Mr. and Mrs. Crawford H. Thomas.

AGNES OCZKEWECZ, *Membership Chairman*

FEBRUARY MEETING

The 504th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in San Francisco on Thursday, Feb. 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum on Roosevelt Way and 16th St. We hope everyone is

getting accustomed to finding the place as it is an ideal building for holding our meetings. If you would like to be met at the entrance on Roosevelt Way, please call Bonnie Smith (OV 1-7635) at dinner time before the meeting.

"Nature's Half Acre", a Walt Disney Film, will be shown. This film represents the extensive work of 15 naturalist-photographers, dramatically portraying nature's plan of providing and caring for birds, plants and insects. We shall ask a panel of experts to comment on the film: Paul Covel, Howard Cogswell, Gladys Smith and Bert Walker. An interesting evening is promised.

BONNIE SMITH, *Program Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

On Saturday, Feb. 13, to Ritchie Ranch and areas west of Lodi. On previous trips Sandhill Cranes, ducks, geese, Gallinules, and a White-tailed Kite were seen on the farmlands and adjacent ponds. Meet in the town of Thornton, which is reached by turning south from Walnut Grove on the Sacramento River Road, Route 24. Allow 2½ hours driving time; distance to Thornton is about 80 miles. Bring binoculars, telescopes, lunch and interested friends. Leader, PHIL SMITH, LO 9-9451. On Sunday, Feb. 14, the RITCHIE RANCH trip will be repeated. Leader, HAROLD G. PETERSON, LO 8-7534

On Saturday, Feb. 27, to San Francisco Zoo and Lake Merced. Meet at the North entrance to Fleishacker Zoo on Sloat Blvd. at 9:15 a.m. After covering the zoo area, a circuit of Lake Merced will be made to see waterfowl, and landbirds in the shrubs bordering the lake. These areas afford good views of Allen Hummingbirds, Marsh Wrens and Townsend's Warbler. Leader, AILEEN PIERSON, JU 7-4163.

HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

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A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, $6.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, $1.50 per year.

Visit the Pacific Coast Office of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY — 2426 Bancroft Way Berkeley 4, California — TH 8-4042